

City Council Study Session Summary

May 9, 2017

**Library Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM**

The City Council met in a study session at 7:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Louisville Public Library at 951 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado. The following persons were present:

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle
Council member Chris Leh
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Lipton
Council member Susan Loo
Council member Dennis Maloney
Council member Ashley Stolzmann

Staff Present: Malcolm Fleming, City Manager
Heather Balser, Deputy City Manager
Aaron DeJong, Economic Development Director
Dave Hayes, Chief of Police
Kathleen Hix, Human Resources Director
Meredyth Muth, City Clerk
Rob Zuccaro, Planning and Building Safety Director
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Members of Public

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Muckle

Citizen Fran Ryan asked to make citizen comments. She feels it is important to hear good about the Police Department. Her neighborhood had a situation that the Police Department handled in a positive, empathic, assertive and lawful way. Neighbors wished to publically honor Sergeant Julian Clark and Chief Dave Hayes. Neighbors spoke and said the situation could not have been resolved without help of the Police Department. They thanked the Police Department for considering the kids and worked with neighborhood kids. Chief Hayes and Sergeant Clark met with neighbors and were transparent and brainstormed coming up with creative solutions. Neighbors appreciated the sharing the Police Department did with them.

City of Louisville

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They have talked about starting a “Friends of the Police Department.” It is in the preliminary phase and they will work with Chief Hayes.

Discussion – Setting a New Amount for the Parking Improvement fee for Downtown Louisville

Economic Development Director Aaron DeJong said projects downtown are required to provide 2 parking spaces/1000 sq feet or, if approved projects are allowed to pay fee rather than provide parking. The fee is \$3600 and has been this amount since 2002.

DeJong reviewed the presentation included in the packet. BRaD was supportive of raising the fee, but had concerns as to how much to raise it. John Leary raised a point of order saying study sessions cannot be used to make decisions.

There were questions and discussion of the presentation. How do we measure the impact of parking? How do we quantify the discussion and form policy? Basic way is to define a level of service – how much parking do we need for the level of service? How far away do people have to park? What is the parking turnover? What are the impacts to surrounding neighborhood? Council struggles with using CPI – would like other indicators. There is a construction cost index that can be looked into.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton feels a pricing increase is long overdue. Planning Commission many years ago set the fee at \$10,000 per space and Council reduced it to \$3,600.

Council member Stolzmann said when this comes forward again, more thought should be put into answering what the point of a fee is. Why are we charging a fee?

John Leary said historic preservation and character of downtown is not incorporated in the presentation. Character will change if we give incentives to develop downtown.

Mayor Muckle agrees with Council member Stolzmann and also agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Lipton that the fee needs to be increased.

Discussion – Police Department Master Plan Including Compensation and Benefits

Chief of Police Dave Hayes said the Master Plan has been updated. He asked if council had any questions. Chief Hayes said the department is nearly fully staffed and does not need additional help for accreditation. They will make sure policies are out and posted for 10 days.

Human Resources Director Kathleen Hix said Human Resources has anecdotal evidence that shows a pension plan does not have to do with turnover. Chief Hayes said the trend is to provide officers with defined benefit plan. The City can't compete with other municipalities who offer defined benefits plans.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton appreciates the view that it is in our best interest to allow officers to retire. Council member Maloney would like to see benefits of surrounding communities. Chief Hayes said surrounding communities have FPPA. Council member Loo would like PERA information regarding the security of PERA.

Council member Stolzmann asked about the time commitment on false alarms and false calls. Chief Hayes said some cities have ordinance or resolution saying there has to be a second verification that a business has been broken into. Chief Hayes we could do that by resolution or ordinance or by department policy.

The Master Plan is meant to be updated annually and is always subject to review and change.

While other businesses move away from defined benefit plans, why are we looking at it? Many municipalities are looking at going back to defined benefit plans. Mayor Muckle added one more comparison – is it typical that those who offer defined benefit plans offer them to all employees.

FPPA cannot come to Louisville for a presentation until September. Council could put a placeholder in the budget. Contract with ICMA is up for renewal in September of 2018.

Can bring back Master plan for consideration then amend it if necessary.

Discussion – Board and Commission Appointment Process

Clerk Meredyth Muth offered options to the current way of reviewing applicants for boards and commissions.

Council member Leh likes the idea of narrowing applicant pool down and not interviewing every applicant. He does not want boards to interview. He does not want to go through the process more than once per year. Term limits could be considered.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton said Boulder has written questions that require rigorous answers; he believes this enhances the process. He does not want boards in the selection process. Also wants only once per year. He does not want to ask for more personal information. He is more interested in term limits. Set the expectations upfront.

Council member Maloney likes the idea of having a subcommittee do some of the legwork. He likes the written questions which can show real interest. Applicants should do an application for each board they apply to. He supports term limits with Council being able to make exceptions if Boards cannot be filled.

Council member Loo likes the idea of subcommittee. She is not sure she likes the idea of written questions. She would hate to lose "small town character."

Council member Stolzmann said if a subcommittee is going to be appointed, it will need to be done very soon. Lakewood had a good idea to keep applications on file so that if folks leave, there is a pool to draw from.

Term limits can be added to Title II. Or not. (Jeff)

Mayor Muckle summarized that most Council members seem supportive of questions. The Mayor is reluctant about a subcommittee. His preference would be everyone look at every application. Several boards could be interviewed at a different time of year. Feels turnover was ok and he is ambivalent about term limits. He likes the current process with the addition of questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton would like fewer interviews and more time spent on interviews. He feels it can be organized for late fall and early winter so completed by February.

Council member Leh said applicants should be asked how they perceive the process.

Clerk Meredyth Muth asked about Saturday interviews. The Mayor is open to a Saturday morning and two week night meetings. Muth will bring back specific questions. There is interest in a subcommittee.

City Manager's Report & Advanced Agenda

Council member Loo is requesting, on behalf of PPLAB time for PPLAB to come to a Study session. Deputy City Manager Heather Balser will talk to Dean Johnson and make a recommendation for addition to the advanced agenda.

City Manager Fleming reviewed the May 16th agenda.

PD master plan will be split from compensation piece.

Move Executive Session to 6:00 pm on May 16th.

Add Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation to May 16th

Change May 23 and June 13th item to Golf and Recreation Board Options

Identification of Future Agenda Items

Mayor Pro Tem Lipton would like an item for Council to talk about how assessments impact mill levy. Perhaps provide FAQ on assessments.

Adjourn 9:20 pm

*Submitted by – Dawn Burgess
May 11, 2017*